

Permission to Fail

*"Fail Whale," Part 3 of 5
Turan Erdogan*

**Why are we afraid to try? We are afraid to fail.
Why are we afraid to fail? Usually other people.**

Be merciful to me, O God, for ... many are attacking me in their pride. When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Psalm 56:1-4, NIV)

But, it can be freeing when someone says, "It's OK to fail."

I) Whose permission to fail do you need to step outside your comfort zone and try something risky but worthwhile?

Parent
Teacher
Coach

Boss
Friend
God

II) The not-so-pleasant truth: when you fail, you will be judged ...

... By those standing by watching and waiting

When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised. Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

(Luke 11:37-39, NIV)

... By those who gave you permission to fail

There is no one righteous, not even one, ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:10, 23, NIV)

... By God

You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:10-12, NIV)

III) How will you respond to the truth of judgment?

One extreme: perfectionism – no one can give us permission to fail

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years ... When Jesus saw her ... he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

(Luke 13:10-14, NIV)

The other extreme: rationalism – the "no one's perfect" philosophy

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. (2 Corinthians 10:12, NIV)

Result in both cases: you tend to become the judge!

At whatever point you judge [someone else], you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. (Romans 2:1b, NIV)

IV) The good news: you get to choose your judge

Choose the right people – those who love you with God's love

Let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way... We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak. (Romans 14:13, 15:1, NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV)

Choose God himself – the ultimate judge

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ... It is God who justifies. (Romans 8:31-33, NIV)

Submitting to the right judge gives us the freedom to step out of our comfort zone and live a risky but worthwhile life!